

## ABSTRACT

**Title:** Images and Symbols in the Historical Novels of Naǧīb Maḥfūz

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**Keywords:** Naǧīb Maḥfūz, egyptian literature, history, symbol, image, egyptology, leader, nationalism, identity

This thesis examines the role of the symbols in the three historical novels of Naǧīb Maḥfūz that take place in the Ancient Egypt. In his return to the history of his nation, he shows people the way to their own identity and explains the contemporary situation in the country by using symbols. We try to prove that his novels renew the traditions and connect the modern Egypt with the legends. We demonstrate on the extracts the intentions of the author, confront his deviation from the historical facts and present reasons which led author to do that. For further comprehension, we give details about the historical novel, egyptology and show the impact of european authors on Naǧīb Maḥfūz.